

Appl. No. : 10/800,189
Filed : March 12, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the examiner objected to the drawings on the ground that Figures 14-15 lack a prior art legend. Accordingly, the applicant submitted concurrently herewith a request for approval of drawing changes in which a "Prior Art" label is added to Figures 14 and 15. In this opportunity, the applicant has also amended Figures 1-3 to correct the inconsistencies therein (SVH 51 and 51). Replacement sheets for the amended drawings are also submitted.

The examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Mardi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,384). The examiner rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mardi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,384) in view of Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,398). The examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mardi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,384) in view of Tustaniwskyj et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,156). The examiner rejected Claim 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mardi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,384) in view of Price et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,570).

In the Office Action, the examiner stated that Claims 9, 11 and 13 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the limitations in Claims 8 and 9. The applicant has amended the set

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claims to be dependent upon Claim 1 as amended. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

In this opportunity, the applicant has amended the specification to correct the wording errors therein and to more clearly describe the present invention. This is to verify that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Under the circumstances, the applicant believes that the present application is in the condition for allowance, and the applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 12/5/05

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

The applicant submitted concurrently herewith a request for approval of drawing changes in which a "Prior Art" label is added to Figures 14 and 15. In this opportunity, the applicant has also amended Figures 1-3 to correct the inconsistencies therein (SVH 51 and 51). Replacement sheets for the amended drawings are also submitted.

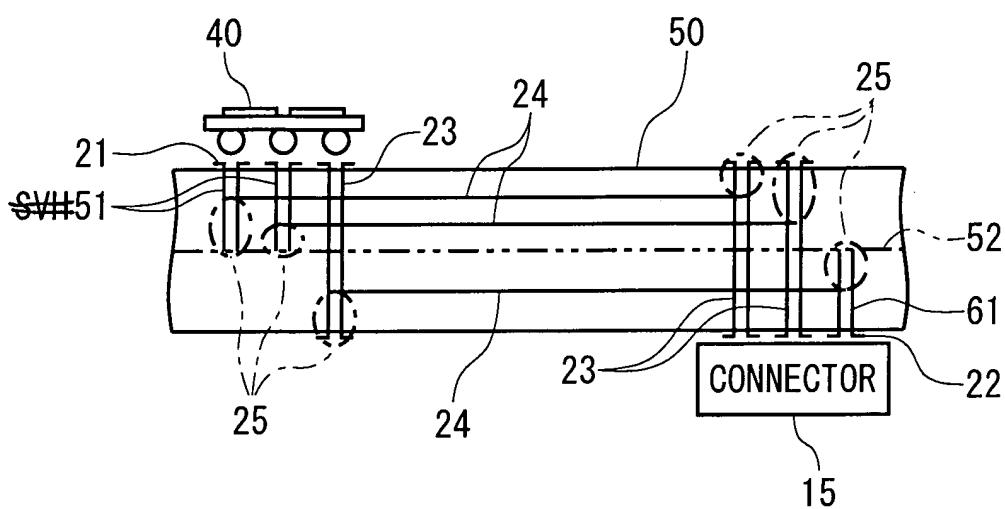


FIG. 1

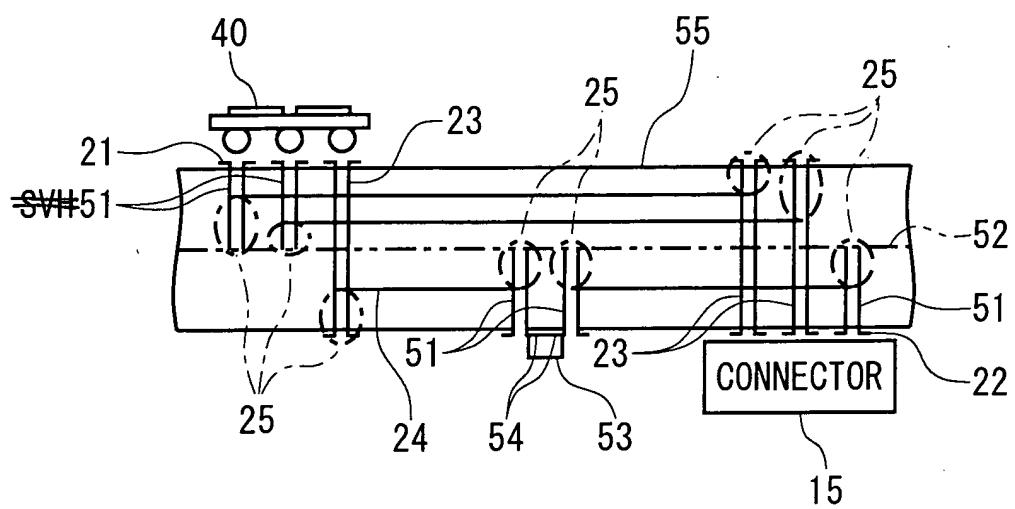


FIG. 2

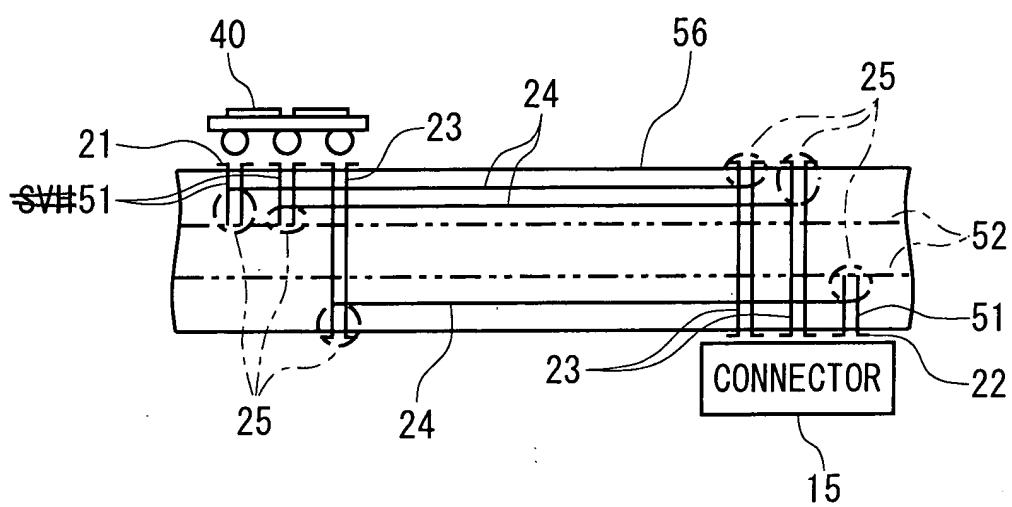


FIG. 3

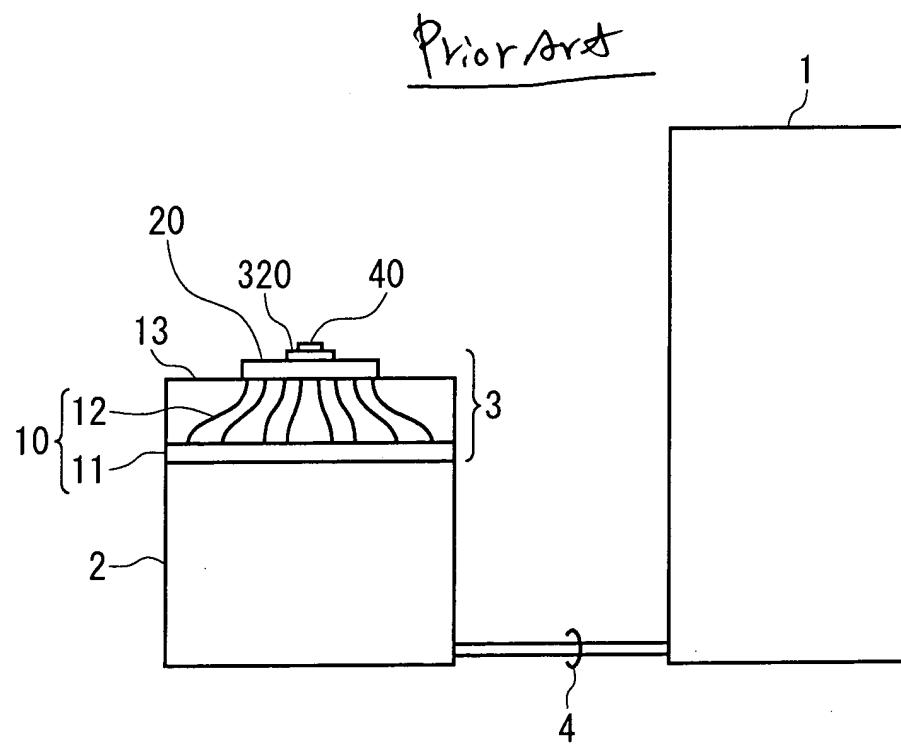


FIG. 14

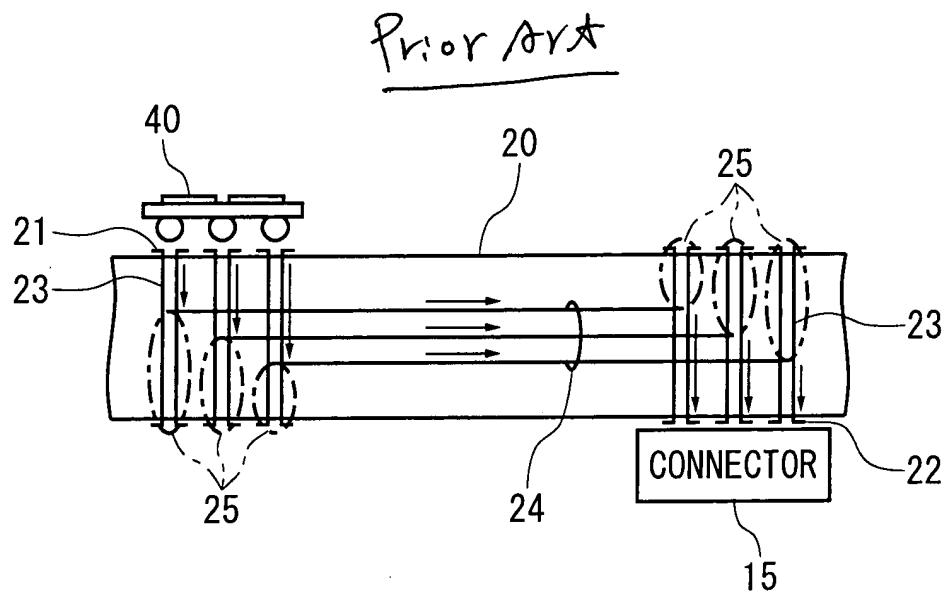


FIG. 15